

A hose assembly for coupling a plurality of components in fluid connection and a method for making same. According to a first aspect of the invention, the hose assembly includes at least one rigid portion and at least one flexible portion which cooperate to permit the shape and size of the hose assembly to be easily modified so that the components may be coupled to one another. A second aspect of the invention provides a method for reinforcing a flexible portion of the hose assembly to prevent the flexible portion from kinking when the flexible portion is bent. A third aspect of the invention provides a support collar for use in reinforcing an intersection between a pair of duct sections wherein at least one of the duct sections is moveable relative to the other duct section. The support collar reinforces the intersection and helps to render this section less susceptible to tearing. A fourth aspect of the invention provides a hose assembly having a sleeve member which covers at least a portion of a duct member so as to provide the duct member with a predetermined characteristic, such as abrasion, tear or puncture resistance.